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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON  
PLANS OF ORGANIZATION  
FOR  
State and County Medical Societies  
OF THE  
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

READ AT THE MEETING IN DETROIT,

MAY, 1856.

BY  
A. B. PALMER, M. D.

Prof. Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Diseases of Women and Children,  
in the University of Michigan, etc.

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# REPORT

OF THE

## COMMITTEE ON PLANS OF ORGANIZATION

FOR

### STATE AND COUNTY SOCIETIES.

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The Committee on Plans of Organization of State and County Societies, respectfully report :

That they have had the subject assigned them under consideration, and are deeply impressed with its importance to the cause of medical improvement. Indeed, of the great desirableness of a thorough organization of our profession into State and County Societies there can be no doubt among those who have given the subject attention.

That the American Medical Association has ever appreciated this fact, and the objects to be attained by organization, is evinced by its repeated expressions and acts. In the preamble attached to the constitution of this body, the objects of its organization are declared to be: "For cultivating and advancing medical knowledge; for elevating and advancing the cause of medical education; for promoting the usefulness, honor, and interests of the medical profession; for enlightening and directing public opinion in regard to the duties, responsibilities, and requirements of medical men; for exciting and encouraging emulation and concert of action in the profession; and for fostering and facilitating friendly intercourse between those engaged in it." And, in order that these great objects might be effected throughout the masses of the profession and the community—that all might participate in their advantages, the Association has held out, and in the appointment of your Committee, and through its efforts, strives still to hold out all possible inducements for the universal formation of State and County Societies, preferring that they should be auxiliary to this body, and directly co-operate with it, in its efforts at improvements.

Your Committee are of the opinion that in no profession is there so great a necessity for a thorough education and discipline of those entering it, and for all the aids which association may afford to improvement afterwards, as in that of medicine. In this, there are



perhaps, greater opportunities for tolerated empiricism, and stupid routinism, for baseless pretensions and reckless blunderings, than in any other.

The people are more ignorant of the principles of medical science than they are of those of the other learned professions, and, for this reason, are less qualified to judge of the acquirements of a physician, than of other professional men. The talents and acquirements of the clergyman and the lawyer are brought to a more searching popular test than those of the physician. The clergyman's public ministrations are laid open to the appreciation of all. His audiences are, to a large extent, competent judges of his pulpit efforts, and if he manifest ignorance, stupidity, or superficiality; if he descends into monotonous mumblings in manner, or stereotyped common-places in matter, he forthwith falls in public estimation to the low level he deserves.

The lawyer is brought to a still more severe test. All his legal papers must be drawn up with the most scrupulous technical accuracy, or they will fail of their object, and be inevitably attended with palpable exposure and pecuniary loss. Here all great errors are open and apparent, involving the reputation and standing of the practitioner: and, before the bar, the lawyer is brought in open conflict and comparison with a keen-eyed opponent, before a sagacious court, fully understanding the principles which are discussed, and who indicates in his open decisions which party is in the right.

With both these latter professions there is every inducement of a personal and selfish character, to stimulate exertion, to induce the most careful preparation, and excite the most strenuous effort; and with one of them are other peculiar and sacred motives, extending far beyond all earthly considerations.

The knowledge and abilities of the physician in the practice of his profession, are not tested in the same direct and open manner. The character of his business is such as more or less to conceal it from public gaze. He has to do with the secret and hidden springs of life. He does not come in contact with the same eagle-eyed opponent, and his labors are not watched and decided upon by the same sagacious and discerning judge. The grave too often conceals his blunders, and few or none, are competent to decide whether the protracted sufferings, the lost vigor, and the shattered constitutions of those who survive, are the necessary consequences of disease which could not have been prevented, or are the results of inefficient or injurious treatment. Indeed, so erroneous is the judgment of those by whom he is surrounded, that he is often praised for his errors, and censured for his highest skill. He sees the bold and unscrupulous pretender, alike ignorant of the disease he treats and the remedies he employs, exalted in popular estimation for the occurrence of events to which he has in no wise contributed, and extolled for recoveries, of which the least that can be said is, his bad management did not effectually prevent them; and the honest physician often feels that varied knowledge and consummate skill, so far as popular favor is concerned, are of less consequence than the possession of other characteristics, of which, in the light of his conscience, he cannot certainly be proud. At least in this erroneous popular estimate—in this darkness which



surrounds his performances, there is an absence of many of those incentives to improvement which are present with the other professions. If the physician is not a real lover of science for its own sake, or a man of genuine, active, intelligent, benevolence, he has comparatively little to stimulate him to exertion; and if not thoroughly instructed in the beginning, and if his ambition is not aroused and kept alive by constant professional intercourse with the more enlightened members of the fraternity; if his knowledge be not brought to the light, where it can be seen and appreciated, he is in imminent danger of falling into a state of mental indifference and inefficiency, of lagging sadly in the march of progress, and becoming a blemish rather than an ornament to the profession, which, in more than one sense he follows. Even the greatest lovers of science, and the best of men, require these stimulants for their full development.

Besides the influence which association has upon individual growth and character, the nature of the science itself particularly demands the organization and concerted action of those who are engaged in its cultivation. Medicine is peculiarly a progressive science. Though the facts and principles upon which it is founded are among the fixed truths of nature, the eternal laws of God, yet all those truths and laws bearing upon the subject are not yet discovered, and the varying conditions of the mystery of life, are ever producing new and varied results, requiring continued observation, record, and comparison; and so innumerable are these hygienic, etiological, and therapeutical relations of external objects, and the peculiarities of organization and the vital force, that the science of health, of disease, and of cure, becomes boundless in its extent, and indefinite in its progression; and, as its greater development is so important to the interests of humanity, it imperatively demands, not only the arduous, but the systematized and concerted labors of its votaries.

In considering specific laws of organization of State and County societies for general adoption, your Committee have experienced embarrassment. In the first place, they do not conceive that this body has the power or the right to dictate positively to these societies the specific form of constitutions, in all their details, which they should adopt. This Association has doubtless the power to determine who shall constitute its members, and could, by the exercise of that power, prescribe the character of the societies which should be represented here; but, in the judgment of your Committee, it would be impolitic, if not wrong, to dictate any measures to societies other than those which are vitally important in carrying out the great principles for which this organization was established.

Almost all communities, of whatever degree of enlightenment, regard themselves as best qualified to frame, at least in the main, the instruments by which they are to be governed; and this is particularly the case in our own country, where there is so much of the spirit of independence, and where, in our political relations, we have the examples of the States forming their own constitutions, and enacting their own laws, with very limited restrictions on the part of the general government. Besides, many States and Counties are already organized into societies, some of them of long standing; and,

having become accustomed to particular forms, which serve well their purpose, they would very reluctantly abandon them for others they had not tested. Indeed, some societies are established by the laws of the States in which they are located, are endowed with certain legal powers and privileges, and provided with specific constitutions which could not be altered without statutory provisions on the part of those States.

In view of these facts, your Committee do not deem it advisable to present in detail, forms of constitution for this Association to peremptorily prescribe to all State and County societies. They will, however, at the close of this report, present the outlines of a constitution for a State and one for a County society, of the most simple form, as suggestive guides to those States and Counties where societies are not organized, or where it may be thought their organizations require remodelling.

There are, however, some provisions which your Committee deem essential to the carrying out of the leading specific objects of this Association, and, therefore, within its province to urge upon those societies which seek a representation here, if not to insist upon them by all the power which it possesses. These are certain specific means for "elevating the standard of education" among medical men, and particularly of "preliminary education;" and of "cultivating and advancing medical knowledge." The standard of education, and particularly of academic education, for admission into the profession, is universally acknowledged to be by far too low. Indeed, in regard to academic acquirements, there is among the schools, scarcely a standard at all. This remark has not reference to exceptions, but is intended to have a general application among us; and we are sorry to learn from a recent "Introductory Lecture to the Medical Session of the University of Dublin, by William Stokes, M.D., Regius Professor of Physic," that this state of things is not confined to our own country. In the lecture, he says: "I can speak on this subject" (of merely special or professional education, while neglecting general or academic) "with confidence, for I have now been more than twenty-five years occupied in the teaching of clinical medicine, and I know that some of our students have obtained their diplomas from various licensing bodies, without possessing the knowledge indispensable to a common clerk."

As to the most efficient means of elevating the standard of education, preliminary and professional, which at the time of its inception, was the governing motive in establishing this Association, there seems at present to be some differences of opinion. Hitherto, the power of the Association, at least such power as is contained in recommendations and resolves, has been expended chiefly, though in most instances it must be confessed, almost vainly, upon the schools. These institutions have by most been considered as mainly, responsible for the low standard of admission to the profession which all acknowledge to exist. They certainly have the power to make their own regulations; to dictate their own terms for the admission of students; to prescribe the extent of instruction given them, the length of time it shall continue, and the amount of knowledge of

every kind they shall possess before receiving medical honors. It is well known, and by none better than by those connected with the schools, that many students, without appreciating their best interests, will seek for the most easy and rapid attainment of a degree; and the schools being charged with the principal labor of furnishing instruction, and being placed by their licensing powers as the guardians of the public and the profession, are regarded as most solemnly bound to exclude all from the privileges and honors they are capable of bestowing, who will endanger the safety of the public, or the honor of the profession.

In order to diminish the weight of this responsibility, especially in regard to preliminary education, some connected with the schools have charged the private members of the profession with dereliction of duty in receiving persons into their offices as students of medicine, without regard to their mental, moral, or educational fitness for becoming respectable physicians, and thus furnishing the schools with defective materials; and private members have even been charged with encouraging students to attend those schools where diplomas are most easily obtained; and it is therefore contended that the professional standard is to be most effectually elevated by inducing private preceptors to allow none to come under their instruction who are not qualified by original capacity, by education and discipline, to do honor to the profession and serve usefully the community.

Without attempting to shield the schools in the slightest degree from the responsibility which necessarily belongs to those who assume to qualify young men for the practice of medicine, and to judge of their fitness for doing justice to their calling—in fact, to induct them into the profession—your Committee are nevertheless of the opinion that there is much force in the charge against the body of physicians, and that they have responsibilities in this matter which they cannot evade.

To bring the profession at large to co-operate in the elevation of its own character, and believing that upon them and their action, more than upon corporations, must the reform which is sought ultimately depend; your Committee recommend that all local or county societies represented in this body, be directed to incorporate into their constitution or by-laws, provisions for the election of a Board of *Censors*, whose duty it shall be to examine all persons applying for admission as students of medicine into the office of any members of such societies, and that no member shall admit any student into his office, until he shall receive from the board of censors a certificate that he possesses a good moral and intellectual character; a good English education, including a thorough knowledge of the English language, and a respectable acquaintance with its literature and the art of composition; a fair knowledge of the natural sciences, and at least the more elementary mathematics, including the main elements of algebra and geometry, and such an acquaintance with the ancient languages as will enable him to read current prescriptions, and appreciate the technical language of medicine.

Your Committee hope that the propriety of this measure will be sufficiently apparent to this body to secure its favorable considera-

tion. Nothing need here be said of the importance of a respectable preliminary education and the possession of a good mental and moral character by those entering upon the study of medicine. With regard to education, it is well known that early deficiencies are seldom supplied in after life, and a want of mental discipline and ignorance of language will obstruct, often irremediably, the course of successful study; and without the possession of proper mental and moral qualities, all attempts at obtaining respectability in the profession will of necessity be futile. Here is the great foundation of the evils under which we suffer, and the removal of this foundation is positively essential to the complete redemption and preservation of our body from degradation and dishonor. If the profession to any considerable extent, be filled with men of feeble, unprovided, or undisciplined intellects, of indifferent morals, and of boorish manners, it will as a body receive as it will deserve, the disrespect, if not the contempt of an intelligent community; and in the pursuit of the science of medicine, as in everything else, there must be an adaptation of men and means to the objects to be accomplished, and there must be a proper beginning to secure a successful issue.

It is quite obvious that at the commencement of professional studies, at the point of determining a course for life, is the proper time for testing preliminary preparation, and general mental and moral fitness, and it is important for the schools to erect a standard on these subjects, only because it is neglected by those who have charge of students at the beginning of their professional course. But if this were not the natural and proper time for such examinations, the fact that the schools have so generally and for such a length of time neglected the recommendations of this body, affords sufficient reason for directing the efforts of the Association to a point where efforts have not yet been proved to be useless. When the Jews would not receive the ministrations of Paul and Barnabas, the great apostle exclaimed: "Lo, we turn to the Gentiles."

It has already been intimated that the cultivation and advancement of medical knowledge is another principal object of all our organizations. In a science like that of medicine, based less upon theoretical speculation and *a priori* reasoning, than upon definite and observed facts, it is obvious that the most direct and certain mode of increasing its knowledge is by the careful observance and record of these facts; and it is equally obvious that the more numerous are the facts thus observed and recorded—the more they partake of the character of extended statistics—the more positive will be the knowledge obtained, and the more reliable the inferences drawn. Indeed, the most prolific source of error in medicine, both as regards etiology and therapeutics, consists in drawing general conclusions from a limited and insufficient number of facts, or from facts occurring under peculiar circumstances.

It has ever been a desideratum of the first importance, to obtain careful, minute, and extended reports of the local prevalence of diseases, the peculiar characters which they may present, and the peculiar circumstances attending them, as regards their cause, their nature, and their treatment. Such reports not limited to public



institutions or to large towns, which would be but imperfect, often erroneous guides to those in the walks of private practice and in rural districts, not restricted to one season in which the "epidemic constitution" may differ from the next, but obtained from a great variety of sources, extending over a lengthened period of time, and in a properly arranged and condensed form placed permanently on record, accompanied with meteorological notations and topographical descriptions; and this going on from year to year through cycles of epidemic changes, would at length accumulate a mass of facts such as has never yet been afforded to medical science, and from which could be drawn reliable scientific and practical deductions, valuable beyond the bounds of computation. In the opinion of your Committee the accomplishment of this end should be among the chief purposes in all our associations.

This great object, so worthy of a great effort, can alone be accomplished by a full organization and a concert of action throughout the masses of the profession. In proportion to the extent of this work would be its perfection. As suggested in the remarks just made, inferences drawn from observations on these subjects, of one or a few, are liable to error from the existence of peculiar circumstances and fortuitous occurrences; but by the accumulated observations of many, the errors from the few are corrected, and positive truth is approximated.

Your Committee would therefore recommend that all local or County and State societies, which are to be represented in this body, shall have incorporated into their constitutions or by-laws provisions which shall make it the imperative duty of all members of local or County societies to keep at least a brief record of all cases in their practice, depending upon local or general causes, and report as often as annually the number or per centage of each disease occurring during each month, giving the age, sex, and hygienic conditions of the patients, the types of the disease, and the general plan of treatment, together with the results, to a committee of the society to which they belong, which committee shall collect these individual reports, arrange them in due form, adding such remarks as may be necessary, and transmit them to a committee of the State society to be added to other similar reports from the various County societies of the State, and arranged in a collected form, and reported to a committee of this Association, to be again collated or tabulated if necessary, and go in a condensed form into its published transactions.

This plan, as will be seen, contemplates a mutual adaptation of these different societies to each other, and to the accomplishment of the end in view. It makes the County auxiliary to the State societies, and these, in turn, auxiliary to the National Association. It contemplates the creation of a new committee or committees, of this body, which might perhaps take the place or perform a part of the duties of the present committees on epidemics, or if thought more desirable, the reports from the several State societies might be sent to the Committee on epidemics, for the State to which they belong. The object will be attained, if these accumulated facts are by any

means placed in a proper form, easy of reference, upon the permanent published records of the Association.

It may be thought that the recording and reporting of cases as contemplated in the foregoing plan, will involve more labor than the majority of members of local societies can be induced to perform; but your Committee are confident in the opinion that it will require comparatively little labor, and that when once engaged in, and the habit is formed, it will by no means be considered a burden.

If a margin be left upon the day-book or the visiting list, or a blank leaf be inserted, or a small case-book be kept, the name of the disease and such brief notes as are contemplated in the plan, can be easily inserted, and these can be readily posted up from month to month, with such remarks as may indicate the topography concerned, the state of the season, the general character the particular disease has assumed, the course pursued, and the results which have followed.

The committees of the County societies will not find their labors great, or their tasks irksome. The figures from the reports of individual members can readily be added together, and the percentage of different diseases shown, and such general statements can without difficulty be made as the facts demand.

For the purpose of giving the facts respecting the prevalence of disease their full value, the complete meteorology of the region must be kept. This needs to be done only by a single individual, for a considerable region, and there are other purposes than medical, which call for the keeping of these records. The Smithsonian Institute, a few years since, undertook the accomplishment of this task on a large scale in many localities, and it is hoped that it may go on and fully succeed in so laudable an undertaking. Should it not, the united effort of the profession might, it is hoped, induce the local civil authorities of each township and corporation to make it the duty, for a proper compensation, of some of its officers to keep such a register and allow copies to be taken for all useful purposes.

For the purposes of our profession they should be very full. The temperature, the moisture, the direction and amount of winds, the amount of sunshine and of cloudy weather, of rain and snow, the pressure of the atmosphere, its electrical state, so far as is possible, the state of terrestrial magnetism, the indications of ozone, and whatever else of external circumstances may be supposed capable of affecting the human organism.

It can but be seen that the value of the facts which might, by the plan thus briefly pointed out, in course of time, be accumulated from every part of the country, would infinitely more than reward in its results the labor bestowed.

Dr. Graves, of Dublin, some years ago proposed the establishment of medical observatories in different parts of the world, for the purpose of comparing epidemics and endemics of different regions, with their meteorology, and the great Humboldt has urged the same idea. Your Committee propose, and ask this Association to exert all the power it may possess, to establish a medical observatory in every

inhabited township throughout this vast country, adding thereby the force of great numbers to the strength of conclusions.

To afford a partial illustration of the interest of this subject, reference may be had to the work of the lamented Dr. Samuel Forry, upon "The Climate of the United States and its Epidemic Influences, based on the Records of the Medical Department and Adjutant General's Office of the United States Army." This little work, though embracing the disease and the partial meteorology of the military posts of the country only, is justly regarded as among the most valuable products of our indigenous medical literature. And here Your Committee are constrained, for the purpose of doing justice to an illustrious statesman of the recent past, to say, that during his administration of the War Office, the meteorological observations upon which Dr. Forry's work is based, had their origin in the enlarged views of the late John C. Calhoun.

But not only will these records be useful for the vast accumulation of facts which will thus be made accessible to future medical philosophers, and rendered available for a more thorough understanding of the cause, prevention, and cure of disease, but their reading and discussion will add great interest to the meetings of societies, as well as utility to their operations, and, it is hoped, will thus cause those societies to be more regarded, and their meetings better attended. This is conceived to be an important object of the plan proposed. One of the chief difficulties in sustaining medical societies, is the want of scientific interest given to their meetings, and the appearance of inutility which so often attends their operations. In our practical times, that which is not palpably useful is not regarded as worthy of existence, and if no prominent object of practical utility is apparent in organizations of this kind, they will be regarded with indifference by practical men, and will fall, as many have fallen, into decay.

Besides these advantages of the system proposed, the habit of careful observation and accurate record of cases which it requires, will have a most decided effect upon the professional improvement of individuals. By it their observing powers will be exercised and developed. Not forming erroneous conclusions in consequence of having distinctly remembered only a few of the cases occurring in their practice, which, from some attending circumstances, most strongly impressed them, while many others, possessing no less importance, and perhaps attended with different results, legitimately leading to other conclusions, have been overlooked and forgotten, they will profit by their own experience, as well as by that of others, and, furthermore, will be excited to higher efforts by being made lively working members of the societies to which they belong, and useful contributors to a great general result.

Of the correctness of these views, and the abstract importance of this subject, your Committee conceive there can be no doubt. The only question that can exist, is, as to the complete practicability of the measure proposed—as to the possibility of bringing the mass of the profession to actually perform the labor required. While fully appreciating the difficulty of changing to any important extent the habits of great numbers of men, and fully understanding that great



movements of this kind are not usually effected without much effort and time, yet there is believed to be in this proposal no insuperable obstacles to its complete success.

Nothing certainly is in the way but an insufficient appreciation of the importance of the subject, an indifference to its demands, and habits of indolent procrastination on the part of medical men; and may we not hope that if the subject be properly presented by individual and associated action, by the voice and by the press, there will be found sufficient love of science and improvement, of humanity and of truth, to sweep away all obstacles and carry the American medical profession to *one* position of honor to which no other body of men has yet attained?

In connection with the subject, the discussion of which is now concluded, and which is but one element, though one so important in the organization of State and County societies, your Committee would suggest that for the purpose of encouraging the production of papers of interest and value, that provision be made for transmitting those read before the County societies, which may be judged by them to possess peculiar interest or a high order of merit, to committees of the State societies, to be presented to them by those bodies, and if thought worthy, to be incorporated into their proceedings, and also, that each State society have the privilege at its annual meetings of sending what may be judged its most valuable papers to this body, to be considered by a committee, and if thought by them proper, to be presented at its meetings, and be published with its transactions.

Your Committee would also suggest that in arranging the details of the working of societies, attention should be paid to a proper division of labor. Special subjects should be referred to those members who, from their mental aptitudes, their previous studies, or their peculiar positions, are best qualified to treat them.

Regarding the Code of Medical Ethics of this Association as dictated by wisdom and justice, and believing it important that every member of the profession should be familiar with its high toned sentiments, and be governed by its pure morality, your Committee would recommend that it be adopted by all medical societies, and published with their constitution and by-laws.

In conclusion, your Committee beg leave to present to your consideration the following resolutions, containing a summary of the principal views embodied in this report:—

1. *Resolved*, That the American Medical Association, appreciating the vast benefits to the advancement of medical science, to the profession, and to the interests of humanity, arising from the efficient organization of medical men, call with deep earnestness upon physicians everywhere throughout the country, to form themselves into County and State medical societies.

2. *Resolved*, That this Association earnestly recommend to all County Medical societies to incorporate into their constitutions or by-laws, provisions for the election of a Board of Censors, whose duty it shall be to examine all persons who may apply for admission into the office of any member of the society as students of medicine, and also to incorporate provisions to prevent any member of such society

from admitting as a student any person who shall not first receive from the Board of Censors a certificate of a good moral and intellectual character; a good English education, including a thorough knowledge of the English language, and a respectable acquaintance with its literature, and with the art of composition; a fair knowledge of the natural sciences, and at least the more elementary mathematics, including the chief elements of algebra and geometry; and, such a knowledge of the ancient languages as will enable him to read current prescriptions and appreciate the technical language of the natural sciences and of medicine.

3. *Resolved*, That this Association also earnestly recommend to local or County societies to incorporate into their constitutions or by-laws provisions for making it the duty of each of their members to keep at least a brief record of all cases occurring in his practice depending upon endemic or general causes, and report at least annually to a committee of the society to which he belongs, the number or per centage of different diseases occurring during each month, together with the particular type of each disease, the chief modifying circumstances under which it occurred, the general plan of treatment and the results of the cases; and also that these societies make provision for the election of such committee, whose duty it shall be to receive and collate such reports, arranging them in due form, and adding such remarks as may assist to their proper understanding, and to transmit them annually thus arranged to a Committee of the State society to which the local or County society shall be auxiliary; and this Association further recommends that the State societies make provisions in their constitutions or by-laws for the appointment of a committee whose duty it shall be to receive such reports from the local or County societies to again arrange them with other reports from similar societies, placing them in a condensed or tabulated form, and report them annually with proper remarks to a committee of this Association, to which the State societies are recommended to become auxiliary.

4. *Resolved*, That this Association make provision for the reception of these reports from the State societies, by a committee or committees, whose duty it shall be to arrange them in proper form, adding such illustrative remarks as may be deemed proper, and to report them to this Association, with a view of having them published with the other transactions of this body.

5. *Resolved*, That this Association recommend the adoption of its Code of Medical Ethics to all societies auxiliary to it, and that they record or publish said code with their constitution and by-laws.

6. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this Association, it would tend to the production of papers of great merit, and increase the interests of the meetings of local or County societies, if those papers possessing peculiar merit were referred to the State society as marks of honor, and to be incorporated into their proceedings, if deemed worthy.

7. *Resolved*, That, in arranging the details of the practical workings of societies, due attention should be paid to a proper division of labor, special subjects for investigation and report being referred to

members who, from their mental aptitudes, their previous studies, or their peculiar opportunities or positions, are best qualified and most inclined to do them justice.

The following simple outline forms of constitutions for State and County societies, are attached, not as examples to be implicitly followed, but as affording suggestions for those engaged in forming new organizations, and, at the same time, furnishing an opportunity for presenting an illustrative detail of those features which may be considered as comparatively novel, and which have been urged as important in the report. These provisions, which are thus developed, may be ingrafted into the constitutions of societies already in existence, or enacted by them into by-laws.

## PLAN OF CONSTITUTION FOR STATE SOCIETIES.

### ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the Medical Society of the State of ———, and shall be auxiliary to the American Medical Association.

### ARTICLE II.

The objects of this Society shall be the advancement of medical knowledge, the elevation of professional character, the protection of the interests of its members, the extension of the bounds of medical science, and the promotion of all measures adapted to the relief of suffering, and to improve the health and protect the lives of the community.\*

### ARTICLE III.

Should specify who are to constitute members, the mode of their election, paying initiation fee, &c.

### ARTICLE IV.

Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Board of Censors, &c. Mode of election.

### ARTICLE V.

*Duties of Officers.*—President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer as usual. Censors depending upon the laws of the State, &c.

### ARTICLE VI.

*Meetings.*—Time of holding, &c.

### ARTICLE VII.

*Respecting Funds.*—How raised and appropriated.

### ARTICLE VIII.

The Code of Ethics shall be that of the American Medical Association.

### ARTICLE IX.

County societies may be formed auxiliary to this Society. Mode of formation. Who shall be members, &c. These things often depend upon the law of the State.

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\* This article and many of the other features of this plan, are taken from the constitution of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.

## ARTICLE X.

There shall be a Standing Committee of this Society composed of such numbers and chosen in such manner as the Society may direct, whose duty it shall be to receive reports of cases of disease occurring in each county from committees where County societies exist, as provided for by the County societies auxiliary to this, or from individuals where County societies do not exist, and to arrange such reports in a condensed or tabulated form, adding such general remarks as may be deemed necessary, and then transmitting them to the committee of the American Medical Association appointed to receive them. Such reports are to be read either in full or by abstract at some meeting of this Society, by the committee of the County society or the individuals reporting them, or by the committee of this society receiving them, as the society may direct.

## ARTICLE XI.

Provision for amendments.

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## PLAN OF CONSTITUTION FOR COUNTY SOCIETIES

## ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the ——— County Medical Society, and shall be auxiliary to the Medical Society of the State of ———.

## ARTICLE II.

Should state the object of the Society.

## ARTICLE III.

*Members.*—Of whom composed. Regular practitioners, &c. How elected.

## ARTICLE IV.

It shall be regarded as the imperative duty of each member of this Society to keep a record of all cases occurring in his practice, depending upon endemic or general causes (such diseases as the different forms of fever, of inflammations, diarrhoea, cholera, tuberculosis, &c., &c.) together with the types they assume, the age, habits, and other hygienic conditions of the patient, and also the general course of treatment pursued, and the termination of the cases; and to report at least annually the absolute number of each disease, or the percentage as compared with the whole number of cases recorded, each month being reported separately, to the committee appointed to receive such reports, as provided for in Article X. These reports are to be read at some meeting of this Society, either by the individual reporting them, or by the committee receiving them as the society may direct.

It shall be considered as a dereliction of duty, punishable as the by-laws may direct, for any member of this Society to admit into his office as a student of medicine, any person who shall not first present a certificate of qualifications as provided for in Article VI of this constitution.



## ARTICLE V.

The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Censors.

## ARTICLE VI.

Duties of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as usual.

It shall be the duty of the Censors to examine all persons applying for admission to the offices of any members of this Society as students of medicine, and if found worthy, to give them certificates of possessing a good moral and intellectual character; a good English education, including a thorough knowledge of the English language, and a respectable acquaintance with its literature and with the art of composition; a fair knowledge of the natural sciences, and at least the more elementary mathematics, including the chief fundamental elements of algebra and geometry, and such a knowledge of the ancient languages as will enable him to read current prescriptions and appreciate the technical language of the natural sciences and of medicine.

## ARTICLE VII.

*Meetings.*—When held. How called, &c.

## ARTICLE VIII.

*Funds.*—How raised and expended, &c.

## ARTICLE IX.

This Society shall adopt the Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association.

## ARTICLE X.

There shall be a Standing Committee of this Society, of such numbers and chosen in such manner as the Society by its by-laws may direct, whose duty it shall be to receive records of cases occurring in practice from the members of the Society as provided for in Article IV of this constitution, to arrange them in a condensed form, showing for each month of the year the percentage of each form of disease reported, adding accounts of the localities where they occurred, the general habits and other hygienic conditions of the people, the general meteorological characters of each month, and statements of the type or severity, or other peculiarities which each particular disease may have assumed, the general course of treatment pursued, and the general results of treatment or the termination of cases; and to transmit such accounts annually to the committee for receiving them of the State Society to which this Society is auxiliary.

## ARTICLE XI.

Provisions for altering or amending this Constitution.

A. B. PALMER, *Chairman.*

N. B. IVES.











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